(a) what is the output of prawn in the coastal States of Maharashtra Gujarat and Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that the output of prawn has decreased in comparison to its output in previous years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such decrease;

(d) whether Government propose to increase its production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The output of prawn in the coastal states of Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra during 1998-99 is given below:

| States | Prawn Production (000 tonnes) |
|---|---|
| Gujarat | 64 |
| Kerala | 70 |
| Maharashtra | 103 |

(b) and (c) Apart from some annual fluctuations there has been no significant decline in prawn production in these states.

(d) and (e) The Government have taken the following steps for increasing prawn production :—

(i) development of scientific shrimp farming through brackishwater fish farmers development agencies, and providing package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp farmers.

(ii) Encouraging establishment of integrated shrimp farms and support facilities such as seed hatcheries, feed mills etc. in the country.

(iii) Human resource development by establishing demonstration-cum-training centres; and

(iv) Issue of guidelines outlining measures for develpment and management of sustainable brackishwater aquaculture practices, etc.

**Watershed Projects in Andhra Pradesh**

2925. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent have Government encouraged the development of watershed projects in drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the drought prone area programme originally implemented in Kurnool and Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh has been diluted due to change in policies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the original DPAP has made an impact in some parts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the existing programmes and plans to improve the impact of all DPAP projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The Drought Prone Area Programme covers 11 districts of Andhra Pradesh. This Programme is being implemented on watershed basis w.e.f. 1-4-1995 on the recommendation of a high level Technical Committee headed by Prof. C. H. Hanumantha Rao. 1608 watershed development projects, sanctioned from 1995-96 to 1998-99 are presently under various stages of implementation. In addition 587 new watershed projects were sanctioned in October, 1999 to these districts.

(b) No, Sir. The Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) prior to 1995-96 was implemented on sectoral activities had been taken up in different areas as suitable to concerned line departments. Therefore, the old approach had not followed an integrated development of identified areas. In order to rectify this situation, DPAP is being implemented since 1995-96 on watershed basis for integrated development of selected watershed projects. Under the revised guidelines, Kurnool district continues to be covered under DPAP, but Anantpur which has more severe aridity, has now been covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP). DDP is also being implemented on watershed basis.

(c) Yes Sir. Several Studies including that of Andhra Pradesh Remote Sensing Application Centre, Hyderabad, suggest that the programme has resulted in appreciable rise in ground water level in down stream side and increase in irrigated area through irrigation wells. The vegetative index maps generated for Vanju Vanka and Vishakha watershed in Anantpur district have shown a significant increase in vegetative cover.

(d) The implementation of watershed projects under DPAP is being reviewed periodically through field visits, review meetings with the concerned State Secretaries and Periodical Progress Reports. To consolidate gains through integrated area development, DPAP is now being taken up exclusively on

watershed basis on the recommendation of a high level Technical Committee. Since all the development activities will be concentrated in the selected watershed, it is expected that there would be much improvement in the impact of the programme.

**Replacement of Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act**

2926. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech of 1998-99 had given assurance to the Parliament to enact the Model Co-operative Act to replace the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 ;

(b) why Government are not coming forward to fulfil its own commitment; and

(c) whether the Bill be placed in the current Session of the Parliament and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 1998-99, stated that as part of a concerted programme to revitalise the cooperative sector, the Government would shortly bring forward a Model Cooperative Law to replace the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

(b) and (c) Legislative proposal for replacing the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 had been firmed up and the Cabinet had also approved it but due to dissolution of 12th Lok Sabha, the Bill could not be introduced in the Parliament. Now the Bill is being processed afresh for approval of the Cabinet. Viewing the statutory/procedural requirements involved, it may not be possible to introduce the Bill during the current Session of Parliament. However, the Bill would be introduced in the Parliament, soon after procedural requirements are completed.

**Agricultural Research Institutes in Tamil Nadu**

2927. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how many Agricultural Research Institutes are functioning in Tamil Nadu;